



May 25, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Memorial Sunday Remembrance



Thought for the Day before Worship

*The purpose of the church is to support disciples who seek to follow
Jesus' command to love one another through the power of the Spirit.*

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*“This Is My Song”
(Amy Golden, cello; Kendra Franke, flute)*

(Harold DeCou)

Tower Bell

Introit

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim, for the world's salvation bled-
Jesus Christ, the King of glory, now is risen from the dead.

***Call to Worship**

We start a new week by gathering in God's house of prayer.

We gather today as part of God's family to praise God.

Tomorrow we will praise God at home, at school, at work.

Tomorrow we will praise God at the hospital, on the road.

Throughout the week, we will honor and glorify God.

May God bless us as we praise and serve God.

Let us Worship our God!!

***Hymn #569**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

(CWM Rhondda)

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

Dear God, Creator of all people, as we continue our life journeys, bless us with your presence as you blessed the Hebrew people in their journey across the desert. Keep us from harm and provide the daily sustenance we need. Remind us that we belong to you and that by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are part of your family. May your Holy Spirit bless us with gifts and fruits for our journey to the Promised Land. We welcome the chance to love one another, Holy God, when we share similar perspectives or political views, when our love does not impact our priorities or our pocketbooks, when our love costs us nothing. Yet, you ask us to keep your commandments when love is not an option we wish to keep on the table, when love is risky to us and to those we want to keep safe, when love threatens to cost us more than we wish to give. Forgive us our lack of courage. Strengthen and reassure us that your Spirit is with us, teaching us and leading us into your way of love. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Hear the Good News! The Holy Spirit comes to cleanse and make us whole, to lift burdens from our shoulders, to bring to remembrance all that God teaches us. In Christ we receive God’s peace, a peace that the world cannot give. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

(Greateorex)
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

From the History of the New Testament: Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.



CONTACTS

Phone	859-431-1818	
Email	stjohnsucc@stjohnsuccnewport.org	
Website	www.stjohnsuccnewport.org	
Facebook	St. John’s United Church of Christ–Newport, KY	
PROGRAM	LOCATION	TIME
Coffee Fellowship Time	Fellowship Hall (L.L.)	9:00 a.m.
Worship	Sanctuary	10:00 a.m.

CHURCH STAFF

POSITION	PERSON	CONTACT
Designated Pastor	J. Martin Westermeyer	Shaman4@zoomtown.com
Pastor of Visitation	John Robson	Jmarrobson@gmail.com
Director Of Music/Organist	Michael Sullivan	Michael.Sullivan@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Associate Director of Music	Dr. Dobin Park	Pianist0587@gmail.com
Office Administrator	Kelli Taylor	Kelli.Taylor@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Director of Communication & Outreach	Kyle Taylor	Kyle.Taylor@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Financial Administrator	Chris Baker	Financialadmin@stjohnsuccnewport.org

CHURCH LEADERS

PERSON	POSITION	CONTACT
Kyle Taylor	Church President	859-394-5256
David Stamm	Church Vice President	859-322-2426
Pat Goins	Church Secretary	859-250-2830
Vickie Kennedy	Church Treasurer	859-653-2630 text or call

Church Office Hours

Monday	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Thursday	Closed
Friday	9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Calls will be answered off-site on days when the office is closed.	

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Tom Williams

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dr. Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722754

Choral Director Today: Sang Bin Park

This Week

Sunday, May 25: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Memorial Day Roll of Remembrance

Monday, May 26: Memorial Day-Church Office Closed
7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting

Tuesday, May 27: 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting

Thursday, May 29: 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class Fellowship Hall

Saturday, May 31: 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting

Sunday, June 1: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

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GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD!

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah
that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth. Selah
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.
May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Anthem

“A Prayer for Our Time”

(Joseph Martin)

Our God, to Thee we pray. Heal our nation, Lord, today.
God of mercy, grant us courage. Give us peace.

When evil draws its angry sword and seeks to sever freedom’s cord,
when death and darkness shake our faith in God’s unfailing pow’r to save,
Eternal Father, ever be our courage in the time of need.

When war is waged by faceless foes who battle peace with fiery blows,
when storms of hate and fear assail, our Father’s mighty arm prevails,
Eternal Father, ever be our refuge in the time of need.

There is no tyrant who can stand against our sure Defender’s hand
No threat or danger can defeat the strong and righteous Prince of Peace
Eternal Father, ever be our fortress in the time of need. Amen.

From the Revelation of John: Revelation 21:10; 23-27; 22:1-5

And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city
Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp
is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into
it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the
glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices
abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne
of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is
the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the
tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the
throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his
face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of
lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Sermon

“Life in the City”

Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

*An Easter Affirmation

We are an Easter-faith people.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ comes to us:

As a spring festival coinciding with the earth’s rebirth,

As a revelation in scripture of God’s intentions,

As a central meaning of human existence.

Yet, the resurrection of Jesus Christ comes to us:

As a puzzle, an intriguing mystery,

As contrary to the apparent facts of life and death,

As impossible to have happened, much less to happen still.

Still, the resurrection of Jesus Christ comes to us:

As the ways of God which are beyond our ways,

As a deeper, different reality than we imagine,

As a possible reality.

Thus, we are Easter-filled people:

Living the hope of new life,

Expecting signs of renewal in ourselves and others,

Believing that the mystery of God is a mystery of forgiving love.

In joy, with power, through faith, we are becoming God’s Easter people.

Thanks be to God!! Amen.

*Hymn #522

“Shall We Gather at the River”

(Hanson Place)

Gathering Together in Prayer

Joys & Concerns – Silent Prayer – Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



Hearing Assistance

We have wireless receivers for the hearing impaired which you may obtain from an usher.

Pastoral Care Notice

If a pastoral care need arises, please contact the church office at (859) 431-1818 and we will get a message to Pastor Marty or Pastor John Robson to contact you.

In Our Prayers

Judy Adams, Kathy Bere, Joan Berkemeyer, Norma Biery, Yvonne Daniels, Judy Eads, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Chuck Hawkins, Jean Morrow, Ed Von Strohe, Wendy Watts & Marty Westermeyer

Weekly Prayer List for Northern Kentucky UCC Cluster

St. Mark UCC, Latonia
Rachel Wirrig

St. John UCC; Covington
Jim Hill

Continued Prayerful Support

Homebound members.

Those in assisted living and nursing homes.

Church Leadership Team, Ministry Teams, and all our church leaders.

Designated Pastor Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Pastor of Visitation John Robson

Homebound Member of the Week

Our homebound member of the week is Joan Berkemeyer. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Joan as our member of the week!

Her address is:

Joan Berkemeyer

213 Linden Avenue

Southgate, KY 41071-3213

Children’s Activity Bags

Activity bags for the children are located at each entrance of the church. Feel free to pick up a bag for your child (children) to work on during the worship service. When the service is done just drop the bags off at each exit so that we may replenish the bags for the following week.

Audio Recordings of Our Sunday Services

Did you miss a Sunday service or would like to hear one over again? You can get a CD audio recording of any service each week down on the table located at the North Lobby entrance. The recordings are separated by date so just look for the service you want to hear and take it home.

Online Video Worship Services

You can view our online video Sunday worship services through our church website: www.stjohnsuccnewport.org, our Church’s Facebook Page or YouTube Channel (just search our church’s name on Facebook/YouTube) and through the Constant Contact weekly email, (just click the online worship button at the bottom of the page). Hope you enjoy the services!

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 25TH

May 25th: Jack Watts



ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

For online giving, please scan the QR code.

The Easter Season calls us to love one another.

Our church food pantry is in need of personal hygiene products and cleaning supplies. During this Easter season we are asking you to consider donating items or making a monetary donation that the Leadership Team will spend on items. Below is a list of what is needed. Any number of goods or amount of money that you are able to contribute will be much appreciated by those who turn to our church in their times of need.

The collection will begin after Easter Sunday and continue through Pentecost Sunday, June 8th. We'll have boxes to collect items at the entries to the sanctuary.

List:

Toiletries – toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, bar soap, lotion.

Cleaning Supplies – paper towels, dish liquid, laundry detergent, all-purpose cleaner, disinfectant, scrubbing sponges, cleaning cloths.

MEMORIAL DAY FLAG TRIBUTE

Small American flags will be available at church on **Sunday, May 25th**. Congregation members are welcome to take a flag to place on the grave of a loved one who gave their life in service to our country. Let us honor their sacrifices and remember them with grace and gratitude.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Please join us on Sunday, June 8th as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. We will celebrate the sacrament of holy communion on this day instead of Sunday, June 1st and remember to wear something red that day to celebrate Pentecost!

Response

Psalm 143:1

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

306



WORDS: Psalm 143:1
MUSIC: George Whelpton, 1897

HEAR OUR PRAYER
Irr.

Offertory Invitation

Praise God with sacrificial offerings. Return thanks to the Creator, who gives us life and breath. Manifest God's love for the world through your sharing. Reaffirm your baptism as you dedicate your time and talents with the material gifts God has loaned to you.

Offertory

“Blades of Grass and Pure White Stones” (Orin Hatch/Christopher)

Blades of grass and pure white stones shelter those who've come and gone.
Just below the emerald sod are those who've reached the arms of God.
Buried here with dignity, endless rows for all to see.
Freedom's seeds in sorrow sown, 'neath blades of grass and pure white stones.

Blades of grass and pure white stones cover those who left their homes,
To rest in fields, here side by side, lest we forget their sacrifice.

***Doxology**

(Lasst Uns Erfreuen)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***Prayer of Dedication**
We praise you, God of love, for your generosity in our lives and the life of the church. Reclaim these gifts you have shared with us to enact your love in words of grace, in acts of healing, forgiveness, and peace. Send us out into your world to love as you love, to weep as you weep, to give and receive your vision of abundance for a world in need of sharing. Amen.

***Hymn #74** *“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”* (Melita)

Time of Remembrance

Memorial Day Roll of Remembrance

Lord of Life,

We enter into this season of Memorial Day surrounded by such a cloud of witnesses. We acknowledge, first of all, the men and women who are currently serving in the Armed Forces and we pray for their safe return. We also acknowledge that there are women and men who will not return, as we grieve their passing in the daily news. We pause to honor their service and their sacrifice.

(Silence)

We also pause this hour to give thanks for all the men and women who have served in the nation’s armed services. Those who have not served cannot fully imagine the experience of war, but we do know war’s aftermath and the toll that it can take on the human heart.

This weekend we remember and acknowledge loss, and so we remember those whom we have loved and lost. We hold their names and their faces in our heart. We recall the gifts they gave to us through the strength of their being, the depth of their love, the courage of their dying, and the fullness of their living.

In the Holy Quiet of this hour, their names surround us and they live with us in blessed memory. Amen.

“America the Beautiful” (Katharine L. Bates)
“Amazing Grace” (Virginia Harmony)

***Benediction**
We ARE God’s people; children of the living God. We have been led into freedom through Christ. God the Creator has written His name upon our hearts. As we grow in God’s likeness, we CAN make a difference. Destiny may find the world through our responses and our service. Go and serve the Lord in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Postlude *“Fanfare on America”* (Murray Bradshaw)

We thank Kendra Franke, Amy Golden and David Golden for sharing their beautiful gift of music this morning.

WELCOME!
Welcome to this house of prayer and worship!
We pray that your experience of worship will deepen your faith and prepare you for the week ahead. We believe God’s Spirit is present in our listening to the Word and our response of discipleship. In our greeting of one another we sense the presence of Christ.
May you know His grace and peace today!
Please sign the guest register when it comes to your seat.



Flowers at the pulpit are for Laura with Love from Vick.
Wishing you the best in your new journey.

Open flower dates are June 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th.
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

